

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowability as to claims 7-9.

In the Final Official Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner argues that claims 1-4 recite the limitation "the projecting side" and that the same has insufficient antecedent basis in the claims.

In response, as discussed below, claims 1-4 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection thereof moot. However, as will also be discussed below, claim 7 has been amended to include the features of claim 1, in which the first occurrence of "the projecting side" has been changed to --a projecting side--.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

In the Final Official Action, the Examiner maintains the rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,352,503 to Matsui et al., (hereinafter "Matsui '503").

In response, claims 1-4 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection thereof moot. Furthermore, allowable claim 7 has been amended to include the features of independent claim 1. Consequently, claims 5 and 9 have been amended to change their dependency from canceled claim 1 to claim 7. Claim 8 has also been canceled.

Consequently, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a).

Lastly, new claim 10 has been added. New claim 10 merges the features of original claims 1 and 7, which were previously indicated as allowable by the Examiner in the Official Actions issued on September 14, 2006; April 4, 2006 and September 16, 2005. Applicants respectfully request that claim 10 be entered and considered by the Examiner since an equal number of independent claims have been canceled (any of claims 2-4) and no new issues have been raised by the introduction of new claim 10 since the contents of new claim 10 (original claims 1 and 7) has been considered and allowed in each of the first three office actions in the present application.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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